

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Replace the paragraph beginning on Page 3, Line 21 with the following new paragraph:

The protective device 20 in accordance with the present invention can be made in any suitable size and shape. For example, when the body 21 is substantially flat, as shown in Fig. 3, the body 21 can have a diameter of approximately seven to eight inches and the opening 22 can have a diameter of approximately three inches. The protective device 20 having such dimensions will completely enclose a typical one of the covers 17. However, the protective device 20 can be sized for use with a stepladder that has an uppermost or top step that extends across the width of the ladder such that a single one of the protective device 20 fits over the top step. As shown in Fig. 3, the body 21 has a generally circular closed wall 21a superposed on and connected to a generally annular wall 21b. The generally annular wall 21b has the central opening 22 formed therein and the closure means 24 attached thereto.